

## *This week's news...*



December 3, 2020

Dear Friend,

### ***Nothing says "I love you" like a Wooster Silver-tip Angle Brush***



It's said that "90% of life is showing up" — and I'm not sure that's true, but I do know that the number holds for ministry.

My guess is that for the vast majority of you, you won't remember much of what Bill Getman said regardless of the brilliance of his sermons, but I bet all of you can remember a time when he showed up — in person, on the phone, in a text, or a well-timed note.

In July of 1992, my young family and I were just about to move from Santa Barbara, CA to Lexington, KY, when, on the same day, I concluded my job of 14 years, my father died unexpectedly, and my wife ended up in the emergency room. Our young children were home with a neighbor in a house stacked high with boxes and I was pacing in the hallway of a hospital. About that time I heard a familiar voice call my name and it was the pastor at our UCC church.

Somehow he had heard and came over. He just looked at me and asked, "You OK?" I clenched my jaw, wiped a tear from my eye, and said, "yeah...we're OK." We weren't, of course, but at that moment, we were good. He didn't stay long — remember — the key is showing up and the magic is knowing when to leave.

While one might expect one's pastor to show up at our toughest moments, the true surprise was that a short time after, my (former) boss also showed up. His question was a little different: "Mr. Gerdts, what's going on?" Even though we were as close as brothers, we called each other by last names and the "what's going on" inquiry was something I heard often — usually in response to something that should have been going better! I was stunned that he came over and that impression remains vivid after 28 years.

I was reminded of these memories this morning when I read an essay in the *New York Times* entitled, ["My Dad Is Going to Paint His Way Through the Pandemic: It's how he loves."](#)

***"You just hate me and want me to die!"***

***Should I be angry at my 8-year-old or proud of his dramatic flair? It's yet another meltdown over distance learning. This is not going well, to put it mildly. Virtual school is a disaster for my three big kids, and our toddler is basically feral at this point. My husband works away from home. I'm proud he's essential, but wish he weren't. As tears flow down my cheeks, I hear the front door open.***

***It's my dad, and he's shown up with paint and his favorite paintbrush (a Wooster silver-tip angle brush).***

***Relief floods me. I forgot he was coming today, or maybe he didn't even tell me. Honestly, my wall calendar still says March.***

That's the opening of the article and it gets better from there!

It's a poignant reminder that lots of us don't have the words or experience of knowing what to do when life crashes in around someone we care about — but showing up and doing something we do know is not just enough, it's often everything.

*Doug*

---

## ***SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 10 A.M. WORSHIP***

This week, the second Sunday of Advent, we celebrate the Lord's Supper and collect the Deacons offering.



---

## ***CONVERSATIONS ON RACE***

Sunday morning discussions continue from 9-9:45 a.m. on Zoom at [this link](#). On December 6, the discussion will focus on an article called "Structural Racism is Taking a Toll on Children's Mental Health," linked [here](#). Each week's resources are linked in the weekly email newsletter and on the [Adult Ed](#) page of the website. Questions? Email Becky Bryan, [rebeccabryan@me.com](mailto:rebeccabryan@me.com).

run with perseverance



Stewardship 2021

---

## **The Goal and the Challenge: A Message from the Stewardship Committee**

Dear Family of Faith:

It goes without saying that 2020 has greatly impacted all aspects of our lives including how we engage with and continue the work of the church. The resilience and perseverance that has been exhibited in continuing to fulfill the church's mission has been extraordinary. For this reason, Run with Perseverance is the theme of the stewardship campaign. Thanks to all the members and staff who have provided their unique messages related to our church family during the campaign. It was not only great to see your faces but also hear the stories and their relevance to the collective financial support of the congregation.

As we move to the pledging phase of this year's stewardship campaign, we feel it is appropriate to clearly articulate the overall goals.

The Goal: In articulating the goal, it is important for the congregation to understand what may be a little-known fact. For each year from 2015 through 2020, the number of pledging units and total dollars pledged has declined as shown in the table below.

	Units Pledging	Amount Pledged	
2015	256	\$698,844	
2016	231	663,513	
2017	210	606,051	
2018	188	564,217	
2019	165	488,058	
2020 so far	47	166,390	updated 12/3

The goal for this campaign is to build back and achieve 2015 levels of giving in terms of number of pledges and total dollars. While the goal may not be achieved this year, we need this year to be the year we as a congregation reverse the trend of decline and work toward achieving the 2015 levels.

The Challenge: Here's what you can do to help. Below is a three-prong challenge for you to consider for increasing your pledge and contributing to achieving the goal.

We are asking you to consider an increase in your pledge applying the formula below (1, 2 or 3) that would result in the greatest increase:

1. Increase your pledge to the church average of \$3,150 for the coming year;
2. Increase your pledge by 1% of your gross income; or
3. Increase your pledge by \$500 for the year.

We certainly know these times are incredibly difficult and you simply may not be able to meet this challenge at any level. But if you are able, we would greatly appreciate it if you would prayerfully consider increasing your financial support, if not at the greatest level outlined above, at a level with which you have comfort.

To those members who consistently support the church financially but choose not to pledge, please know that your contribution is vital to life of the church and we would ask those members to consider the challenge above whether or not it includes a formal pledge.

We will be providing the congregation with weekly updates on the number of pledges and total amount versus the stated goals.

Your time and attention to all of the information provided through the email newsletters, bulletins and services are very much appreciated and we certainly welcome any feedback on any aspect of the campaign. Any questions or feedback can be sent via email to Gene Spinelli [genespin@comcast.net](mailto:genespin@comcast.net).

[2021 Online Pledge Form](#)

God Bless You All,

The Stewardship Committee

[2021 PDF Pledge Form](#)

## ***SPEAKING OF PLEDGES, DON'T MISS CONSECRATION SUNDAY, 12/13***

Pledges will be consecrated on Sunday, December 13, during the drive-through offering. Bring yours by after the Congregational Meeting. If you have pledged online or submitted a form already, come by and honk in support of the First Presbyterian missions and receive a sweet Thank You!

---

### ***ALSO ON DECEMBER 13...***

Immediately following worship on December 13 (so around 11 a.m.), there will be a **meeting of the Congregation** on Zoom for the purpose of electing officers (Elders and Deacons) for 2021 and electing the nominating committee. Join in for this brief meeting before the Consecration drive through (see previous announcement). [Zoom link](#).



### ***2020 Advent Candlelight Service December 13 @ 5 p.m. ...traditional, but online***

First Presbyterian's traditional service of Lessons and Carols has moved online this year. Many thanks to Betsy Westermaier and Mark Cole for honoring this decades-long practice in a new form. The Candlelight Service will be live streamed using the usual live streaming connection on [haddonfieldpres.org/watchlive](http://haddonfieldpres.org/watchlive) and on Facebook.

---



**LAST CALL** for Advent Take Home Kits and wreaths. Place your orders here! [Advent Kit Order Form](#), for wreaths, just email [Gabrielle Heimerling](mailto:Gabrielle Heimerling)!

### ***ADVENT - GIVING BACK***

Missing the **Caring Hearts stockings** this year? We have an even easier way for you to give to this wonderful organization. This year we are hoping you will contribute financially through Realm. Caring Hearts will take your donations and purchase gift cards to fulfill Wish Lists for the 51 families that they are working to give a better Christmas to this year. Donating is simple through [Onrealm.org](http://Onrealm.org)! Simply select "Caring Hearts Gift Cards" in the drop down "Fund" menu. Realm not your thing? You can send a check to the church office with "Caring Hearts Gift Cards" written in the memo line. In the past FPCH has graciously filled 50 (!) Caring Hearts stockings during Advent and we are hoping to bring that same generosity this year. Please know that your donations are truly making another family's Christmas brighter, this year more than ever.

**A BIG THANK YOU TO GAB HEIMERLING** for providing the wonderful take-home Advent Festival this year! Families who have completed their Advent crafts are invited to send photos of them and of the crafters to [Anne Vial](#) and [Rebecca Mannion](#) for inclusion in the newsletter and on Facebook.

---

## **ADVENT WORKSHOP ON RESILIENCE**



Advent is a time of waiting and preparation, and our goal is to honor these spiritual practices, especially during a time where we may need to prepare to shelter at home. To these ends, you are invited to participate in a special Advent Workshop on resilience. On **Monday, December 7, 2020 from 7-9pm**, join a multi-church Zoom led by Becky Bryan on ways to understand and cope with the challenges of stress. See the flyer and sign-up information [here](#).

---

## **SERIES FOR AN UNPRECEDENTED ADVENT - EXPANDED VERSION**

How do we prepare for the Light to enter the world in 2020? Join these Zoom Workshops for an Unprecedented Advent from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 9**, *Sensing the Divine Spark in Each of Us*;

**Wednesday, December 16**, *The Power of Gratitude*.

**Added date: Wednesday, December 23!** *Prayers for Hope, Peace, Joy and Love* – Since we are unable to gather physically for Christmas Eve this year, join us for a time of prayer for this last session.

[Click here](#) for details. **NEW Zoom link** [here](#).

---

## **A FEW MORE CHRISTMAS DETAIL**

**THE MISSION COMMITTEE IS COLLECTING COATS, HATS, MITTENS, AND SOCKS** for the Camden Community Center. Bring them to the drive through or call ahead to the church office to arrange a drop off.

**CHRISTMAS EVE LIVE STREAM** – On December 24, you can watch a virtual service that will include the participation of choirs. Once it is live streamed at 4 p.m., the service will be available in the archive to view at any time.

**A NOTE ON CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS** – Since we are unable to attend church services this Christmas Season, our beloved display of Poinsettias will not take place. A nominal number of plants will adorn the Chancel and be seen in our “Virtual Services”. These poinsettias will lovingly represent the Memory and be in Honor of those who are held dearly by members of our congregation.

## ***Tuesday Morning Bible Study with Doug***

Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m. on Zoom, Doug hosts an informal conversation about the scripture that will be the text for the following Sunday's sermon. The text for **Tuesday, December 8** is John 1:6-8, 19-28 . Here's the Zoom [link](#).

---

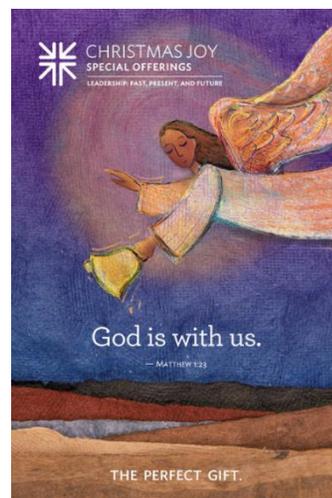
## ***PORCH BIBLE STUDY***

The Porch Study is an informal time of study and fellowship - no preparation needed. If you would like to participate, please email Rebecca in the church office or Deb Nussbaum at [debranussbaum1987@gmail.com](mailto:debranussbaum1987@gmail.com) and Kristin Carberry will add your address to the Zoom mailing list.

---

## ***CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING***

**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING** – This offering goes to the PC(USA) to support the people who have dedicated their lives to the service of the church. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities. This offering provides for leadership development for communities of color, and support for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in times of need. The Christmas Joy Offering will be collected throughout the month of December, online, mailed, or during the drive through.



## ***YOUTH GROUP NEWS!***

**Youth Group** is meeting this week, 12/6. We are still holding out for another in-person and outside meeting either at 3pm or 4pm to maximize warmth and light so Youth Groupers (and Youth Group families) please respond to Gab's email with your availability! Plans will be finalized by Friday morning for either an in person or virtual get together, so please be on the lookout for updates.

---

## ***ADVENT ANTHEM FROM MACKENZIE***

Mackenzie, Thank you for helping us prepare!

Mackenzie is the granddaughter of Rita Brown, who videotaped this for us. Mackenzie, a kindergarten student, sings in Cherub Choir.

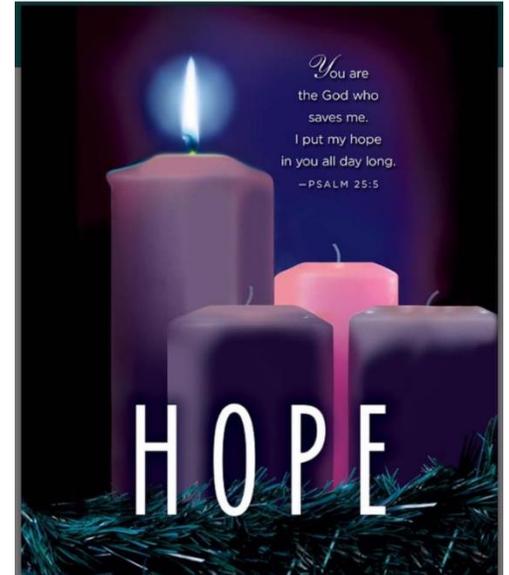


## ***SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS***

It's Advent Season! We learned the first candle in the Advent Wreath signifies **Hope**. Our Sunday school lessons for the next few weeks are going to focus on Advent and Christmas Bible stories. Our first one tells about Mary's encounter with the angel Gabriel and the surprising news she receives. Along with learning about when the Angel Gabriel visited Mary.

I was a little sad Sunday because typically I would have been running around like crazy with a great team setting up for the Advent Festival. I really love the Advent Festival and I was missing it. But Sunday's candle signifies "**Hope.**" I am going to be **HOPEful** that next year we are going to celebrate Advent **TOGETHER**. I cannot wait for that!

Ponder and enjoy! Grace and Peace!



So, like Advent is the season of waiting and anticipation, we'll patiently wait until we can get together again. It's definitely something worth waiting for.

### ***Santa comes to the Preschool!***

It's our favorite time of year! Santa and Elf William are coming to Presby! Our preschoolers will experience the magic of Santa next week. All children will have an opportunity to tell Santa their Christmas wishes as parents photograph the memory.

Santa and Elf William will be in the courtyard awaiting children filled with awe on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 10:15-11:15, Thursday, Dec. 10, 12:15-1:15, and Friday 10:00-11:00.



### ***WELCOME TO COLETTE MARY KOLTON, DAUGHTER OF VICTOR AND EMILY KOLTON***

***baptized on Sunday, 11/29/20***



## AN ADVENT GIFT FROM MARK

II  
V e-ni ve-ni, Em-man-u-el cap-ti-vum sol-ve Is- ra- el  
Qui ge-mit in ex- si- li- o, pri-va-tus De-i Fi- li- o.

### "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel," arr. Lee Dengler

[Listen here](#)

*Veni Emmanuel* was originally music for a Requiem Mass in a 15th-century French Franciscan Processional. Thomas Helmore (b. Kidderminster, Worcestershire, England, 1811; d. Westminster, London, England, 1890) adapted this chant tune and published it in Part II of his *The Hymnal Noted* (1854).

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

---

## FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN AND CHRISTMAS

Time is running out to support Feed My Starving Children with a purchase from Lynch Creek Farms, located in Washington State. Haddonfield's "It Takes A Village," FMSC Mobile Pack, will earn 15% on all sales of their beautiful holiday wreaths and centerpieces. Most of their products cost approximately \$45-\$75, which includes shipping. When ordering, use the campaign #246058 to be certain that FMSC gets credit. Orders can be made up **until Dec. 15th**. Online orders can be made by going to [www.lynchcreekfundraising.com/c/246058](http://www.lynchcreekfundraising.com/c/246058). Make your selection and provide the information required. Please note that the date you are asked to provide will be the approximate shipping date-not the arrival date of the item. You can also order by phone at (888) 426-0781 if you would prefer.

---

### A SHOPPING REMINDER - USE AMAZON SMILE

If you use Amazon to do online buying, do so using Amazon Smile and Amazon will donate .5% of your purchase price to the church. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com> and select "First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield" as your charity.

## ***ST. WILFRID'S OPEN DOOR CLINIC***

### **Report from the Open Door Clinic at St Wilfrid's November 28, 2020**

This week marks the 37th straight week that the Open Door Clinic at St Wilfrid's has distributed food during the pandemic; 92 bags, 3,243 total. Over 81,000 pounds of food and dry good, distributed by the all-volunteer, everything-donated, nobody-gets-paid **Open Door Clinic at St. Wilfrid's**. Newborn Alaya Mercado Gomez did attend Saturday...with her mother, and received baby clothes!

Thank you for your prayers for blessings and protection for all the sponsors, the volunteers and our patrons.

**Current needs:** Baby wipes, diapers sizes 2,4,5,6, and adult medium and large. Winter coats and jackets for all ages, hats, sweatshirts, and blankets. Continued need for peanut butter, tuna, pasta, rice, and macaroni and cheese. Paper grocery bags to line plastic grocery bags from Whole Foods , ShopRite, and Aldi's....these bags together can hold 22 pounds of food and can be carried home without breaking! Newspaper bags are also needed to hold hygiene items. All items may be dropped off at the drive through after church on Sundays or in the bin behind Grace Church during the weekend.

On Food Bank Friday...and Mondays: We always need cars and helpers on Food Bank transport day, which is usually Friday, but because of the holidays, may be on some Mondays. Tentatively our December pick-ups will be Friday, December 11, Monday, December 21, and Monday, December 28—fun and exercise for all. If anyone is available to help, please email Rose Guthrie at [intrepidrose@hotmail.com](mailto:intrepidrose@hotmail.com)

If you can help in any way, or have questions, please call Jill Mascena at 856-428-7342 and leave a message or check the website [www.opendoorcliniccamden.org](http://www.opendoorcliniccamden.org)

---

### ***WEEKLY CALENDAR***

- Dec. 6 - 10 a.m. Worship - Communion and Deacons Offering**
- Dec. 7 - 7 p.m. Advent Workshop on Resilience**
- Dec. 8 - 8 a.m. Doug's Bible study**
- Dec. 8 - 7 p.m. Porch Bible Study**
- Dec. 9 - 6:30 p.m. Workshop for an Unprecedented Advent**
- Dec. 13 - 10 a.m. Worship - Third Sunday of Advent**
- Dec. 13 - 11 a.m. Congregational Meeting**
- Dec. 13 - 11:15 Consecration Drive Through**
- Dec. 13 - 5 p.m. Advent Candlelight Service**

